GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:326
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Violation of Emission Norms
Charitra Shri Ram;Sundaram Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Volkswagen has been fined billions of dollars by the United States of America for fudging emission norms in its cars and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether cars manufactured in India by the said company have also been found violating the nitrogen oxide emissions norms;
(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the names of the car models violating local emission norms;
(d) whether any notice has been issued to Volkswagen in this regard, if so, the details thereof and the response received in this regard; and
(e) whether the Government proposes to impose a fine or enforce recall of cars by the said company and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA)

(a): Madam, the information related to fines being imposed by USA is available to this Ministry only through media reports. There is no official communication received from USA in this regard.

(b) & (c): This Ministry has ordered investigation through testing agency Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI). ARAI has submitted the preliminary report on 28th October 2015. Based on the initial findings, there is indication that the diesel vehicles fitted with E189 engine and manufactured in India by Volkswagen Group of Companies are fitted with "the defeat device". Fitment of such a device may lead to excess NOx emissions on road. At the moment, there are no specific norms or limits for measuring on road mass emissions coming out of cars. The possible violation is with respect to fitment of defeat device on the vehicles so that it senses that the vehicle is being tested on the mandatory driving cycle and adjusts the performance of after-treatment devise accordingly to meet the regulatory emission test cycle in the laboratory.

(d): Yes Madam, through ARAI, notice was issued to Volkswagen on 4th November 2015. Accordingly Volkswagen is required to respond to the notice by 30th November 2015.

(e): Depending upon the outcome of the disclosure and test findings, possible penal/administrative action and/or recall of vehicles, as the case may be, shall be taken in accordance with applicable national laws.
****